

BLEASE FIRES OPENING GUN IN HIS CAMPAIGN

BIG CROWD HEARS HIS ADDRESS IN GREENVILLE.

Defines His Position on Whiskey Question and Discusses Other Important Issues.

Special to The Herald and News.

Greenville, Oct. 4.—The State campaign of 1916 was launched at Duke-land park, near this city, on Saturday, when the opening gun was fired by Former Governor Cole. L. Blease, who definitely announced his candidacy for governor. That the whiskey question will again be an issue, as the result of the recent prohibition election, was made evident by Mr. Blease's declaration that local option would be one of the planks in the platform upon which he would base his candidacy. He defined his position on this question clearly and at some length. He favors county local option as between prohibition, county dispensaries and license under the constitutional restrictions. He did not want any one to leave the grounds with the false impression, he said, that by license he meant a return to the old bar-room system, because he would fight any such return with all the strength he possessed. What he meant by a license system, if the majority of the white voters of a county preferred it to prohibition or county dispensary, was a license to operate a dispensary, under dispensary restrictions, and with a provision that if the holder of a license violated the law, upon conviction his license should be revoked and he should be sentenced to a term of imprisonment in the State penitentiary without the alternative of a fine. He would leave to the various counties, by majority vote of their white men, to choose as between the license system, prohibition and county dispensary system.

The former governor discussed the State warehouse system, taxation, State printing and other important matters. A big crowd numbering several thousand were out to hear him. A Greenville newspaper conservatively estimated the crowd at from 3,000 to 4,000.

Mr. Blease began his address by thanking the people of Greenville and surrounding counties for coming out to hear him. He cordially greeted his friends, and expressed his heartfelt appreciation of what they had done for him in the past. He congratulated the people of South Carolina upon the present outlook for an era of prosperity, based upon the price of cotton. The price, he said, was due to no one man or set of men; it was not due to the national administration, nor was it due to the State administration; it was due entirely, as every sensible man knew, to the demand at this time caused by the short crop throughout the South. He predicted that cotton would yet bring a better price.

Taking up the warehouse system, he discussed it fully, explaining it in detail and saying, "Let no man fool you; had it not been for John L. McLaurin and the extra session of the legislature called by me, you would never have had any warehouse system. There are those today who are clamoring for it, and endeavoring to rub up against it, and saying, 'I am with you,' who at heart were opposed to it and fought it. McLaurin conceived the scheme, and had he not been in the senate it would never have become a law. Therefore if you want to give credit to whom credit is due, give it to John L. McLaurin as being the father of the system, and to Cole. L. Blease for calling the extra session of the legislature which made it possible for it to become a law. The work of McLaurin in the senate in that extra session called by me gave the relief you have today through your warehouse system—facilities for holding your cotton and securing money on it at 6 per cent. Do not be fooled by those who are now saying they are in favor of it and want it to succeed. It is succeeding and is doing its work, and it needs no wet nurses."

Referring to the matter of the printing for the State, he said he noticed that a committee was now running around doing much investigating, and that some people were endeavoring to claim all the credit for this agitation, but he desired to call the attention of the people to the fact that in messages to the general assembly while he was governor he called attention to this species of graft and demanded of the legislature that they take some action. In this connection he read portions of his message to the general assembly, in which he showed how this money was wasted. In one message he said: "Pick up your message of the governor, and see in index, Reports, Vol. 1, Annual Message, and Nos. 2, 3, balance left out, making it appear that there were only three. These messages should be printed in the Journal of the Senate and House, and not

printed elsewhere. Look in the same volume, under circulars, and table of rates of railroads, express rate, rules, etc., reports of township commissioners of Sullivan's Island, returns of insurance companies, corporation license fees, etc., and many other such useless matters. And even if they were useful, these reports are only sent to the members of the house and senate, and not seen by the public; and, gentlemen, without meaning any reflection, I doubt seriously if any of you have ever read them. So why should they be printed, at the expense of the people? (Here many other specific instances of waste and extravagance in printing items were called attention to in the message, which continued): Just go on, gentlemen, and read these three volumes, and if there is anything in them except to add to printers' bills, please be kind enough to let me know where it is. This deficit (referring to deficit in public printing item for which legislature had made an extra appropriation) is but a deficit of graft of the worst nature, and surely you are not going to sit up there and submit to it, without at least examining it. It is absolutely absurd and ridiculous. I call your attention to it. I can do no more, except to ask you to help me by sustaining my veto."

The question of taxation was next taken up for discussion by the former governor, who scored the legislature for the establishment of useless offices at its last session, and said that some of them should be abolished. He also scored the legislature for trying to deceive the people by leaving the State levy the same, and then going outside and making special levies for purposes which were included in the State levy of the year before, particularly the pensions—thus endeavoring to mislead the people by saying that taxes had not been raised, when they were higher than they had ever been under a Democratic administration.

He then turned his attention to what he termed the unfair assessments which are now being undertaken to be levied against the banks, the railroads, the cotton mills and other corporations, and said that the present tax commission was the most tyrannical body that had been established in South Carolina since the days of Republicanism. He was no corporation man, he said, as his record proved, but he favored giving them a fair deal, which they were not getting now from this tax board. It was only a subterfuge, anyway, he urged, for the farmer and the laboring man would finally be the sufferer; the hue and cry was, levy your tax, the corporations pay the most of it, but as a matter of fact, every sensible man knew that at last the consumer paid all the taxes, and that when the railroads lost money, when the cotton mills lost money, or when other corporations lost money, the first man to be hit was the employee, whose wages were reduced or who was cut off entirely in order to reduce the force. This clap-trap, he said, had fooled people long enough, and he felt sure by this time they had caught on to it.

Taking up the question of lawlessness, he said that the newspapers had reported fourteen criminal assaults in the State since he had left the governor's office—a record never before equalled in the same length of time—and that during his whole term of office of four years there was not an average of one assault a year.

He said the solicitors and the sheriffs were complaining of lawlessness all over the State, and that even some of the judges had gone to speaking of it in their charges to the grand juries. He then sarcastically said, "And Cole. Blease is not in the governor's office for it to be laid on him." "And out of all this I would have you understand, fellow citizens, with all this lawlessness, and with all this great crime, they have not as yet been able to lay one single act of it to any one of Blease's seventeen hundred paroled convicts."

"I now approach that great question," said Mr. Blease, "which has so long agitated our people, and which I was in hopes would be eliminated from the campaign next summer, but which we had just as well face, for we are up against it, and there is no use to dodge. And I today announce to you that I am a candidate for governor in 1916—not a personal candidate, but the candidate of my people. Men throughout the entire State have insisted upon making the race, and when I have mentioned various gentlemen whom I thought our party could put up and agree upon, our people have not been able to agree upon any of them, and final decision was that I was the man to make the race for what is known as the 'Blease faction' in this State."

The former governor, in a joking way, said that a gentleman had told him the other day that his candidacy for governor had already had one good effect—that it had put the price of cotton up, because those who were opposed to him had to put it up to have something to point to—that there was nothing else.

"Personally, I have no ambition to

go back in the governor's office," he said. "I have served my two terms, and am perfectly satisfied to stay in retirement, but as my people have made the demand upon me, I will be in the race and I will be elected, unless there is a great change among the people—I do not care whether they put up the so-called Game Cock from Sumter, the Shanghai from Greenwood, the Cock Robin from Laurens, or any other man."

"Now, as to the whiskey question: I knew that the people of South Carolina did not want the county dispensary system; they have never been pleased with it, and never would have been. On the 12th day of February, 1907, on the floor of the State senate (this you will find on page 501, Senate Journal of that year) in recording my reasons for voting against the county dispensary system, I said: 'I do not believe that the people of South Carolina are in favor of such a system as this bill will give them, and believe that when they have the opportunity to speak that they will not endorse the action that this legislature is about to take.' That was more than eight years ago; yet the very first opportunity that the people of the State had they verified my prediction and voted this system out of existence. I stated at Filbert, in a conversation, that I was not interested in the whiskey election, and had absolutely nothing to do with it, and I stated in an interview to the paper that the only reason that I disliked to see the matter agitated at this time was because the whiskey question had been eliminated practically from our State politics, and that if the State went prohibition at this time it meant that this question would be thrown into the campaign of 1916, and in all probability would be the paramount issue."

"In view of this position, I now state to you what my platform will be on that question:

"First, under no conditions or circumstances would I ever agree to the reinstatement of the old bar-room system: I will fight as long as I live against ever having in South Carolina a bar-room, a place into which young men could be lured to take the social drink; where music boxes are kept playing in order to entice them; where pictures of nude women are hanging upon the walls; where free lunch is served at the counter; where the click of the billiard ball and the rattle of the poker chip are all used to lure them in, to the destruction of their bodies and the damnation of their souls. And I do not want any man to leave here now and say that Blease favors a license system for bar-rooms, for no man hates the bar-room worse than I do; no man knows its evils better than I do, or would fight against it harder."

"But, fellow citizens, I believe in local self-government. I started on that platform when I was first elected to the legislature in 1890, and have stood on that platform through my career in the house and senate and as governor. You have your local school taxes; you have your local compulsory school law; you have your local road laws, and other local laws in reference to the shooting of game, hunting of deer, and things of this kind, and to carry out that great principle of Democracy I am in favor of leaving to each county in South Carolina the question as to whether that county will have prohibition; and if a majority of the white people want it, let them have it."

If the majority of the people of another county want the county dispensary system as it is now run, and the majority of the white people of that county vote for it, let them have it; if another county—Charleston or Columbia, to illustrate—wants a license system, under our present constitutional restrictions, and a majority of their white people vote for it, let them have it. When I say license system, gentlemen, I mean this: License the individual to run a dispensary—not a bar-room—and force him into a strict observance of the law; that is, not one drop of whiskey shall be sold between sundown and sunup, not less than one-half pint shall be sold, not a single drop shall be drunk on the premises, none shall be sold to minors or inebriates, and not one drop shall be sold on credit, so as not to encourage those without money to go into debt to drink, thereby destroying that which should go to their families; and allowing no man to have his dispensary connected with any grocery business, any restaurant, or any places of amusement of any kind, shape or form; but requiring the very strictest observance of the present dispensary law. And if any man holding a license shall in any manner, shape or form violate this law, upon conviction his license shall be immediately revoked, he shall never be licensed again in this State, and he shall be placed in the State penitentiary to serve a sentence without the alternative of a fine. This, fellow citizens, is true Democracy, as laid down by Thomas Jefferson and the great Democrats who founded this government, and it is the Democracy of the Democratic party of today, and by it we should stand

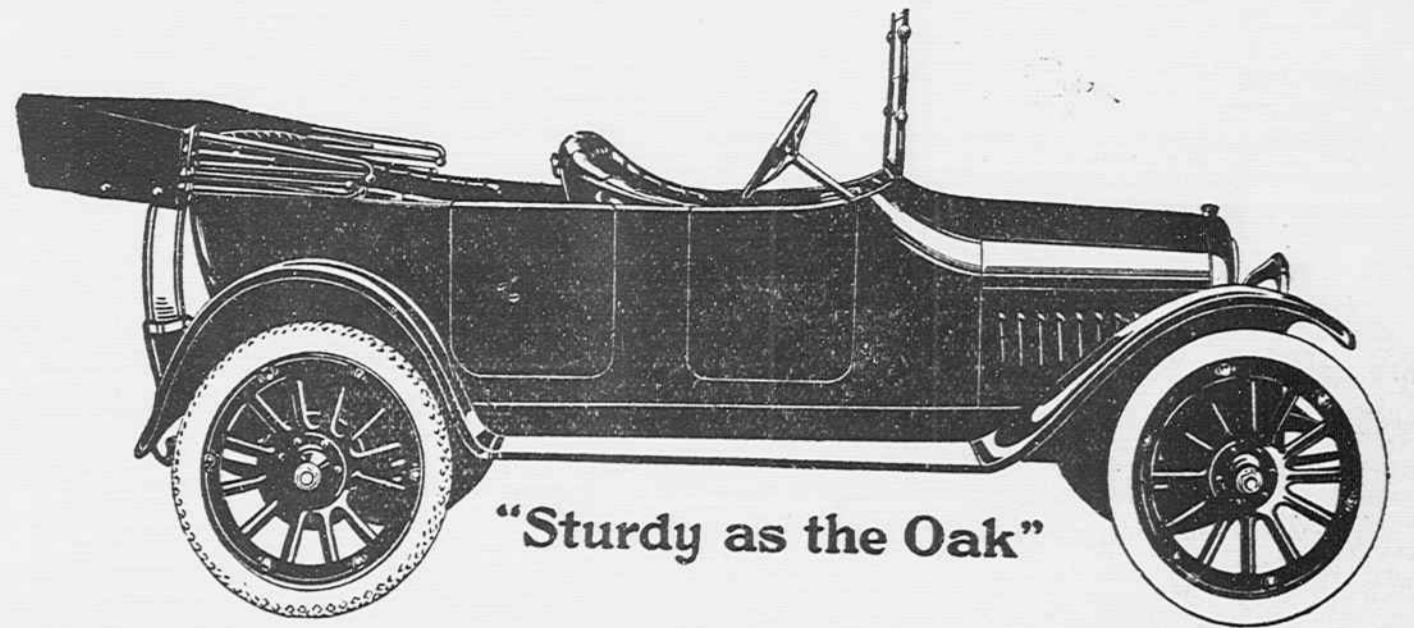
on our feet."

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EQUIPMENT—One-man top, Stewart speedometer, gasoline gauge, robe rail, foot rail, extra demountable rim, clear vision divided windshield, electric headlights with dimmers, tail light and instrument board light, license tag brackets, electric horn, rubber floor mat in driving compartment, tools, etc.

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HONOR SHIPS IN THE NAVY

Michigan Wins the Much-Prized Combined Merit Pennant.

The American navy's battle efficiency pennant for combined merit in gunnery and engineering in the battleship class for the past year has been awarded to the Michigan, commanded by Capt. Albert P. Niblack. The Patterson, commanded by Lieut. H. R. Stark, won the similar pennant for the destroyer class, and the K-8, under command of J. W. Lewis, won that for the submarines.

The battleship trophy for excellence in gunnery was awarded the Georgia, Capt. R. E. Coonitz, while that for the destroyer class went to the Patterson and for the submarine class to the K-8. Commendatory letters will be sent to the commanding officers by President Wilson.

Lieut. Anson Merrick, U. S. N., formerly of Walhalla, is one of the officers on board the Michigan.

No. 666

This is a prescription prepared especially for MALARIA or CHILLS & FEVER. Five or six doses will break any case, and if taken then as a tonic the Fever will not return. It acts on the liver better than Calomel and does not gripe or sicken. 25c

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The Old Standard general strengthening tonic GROVE'S PASTELLESS CHIN TONIC drives out Malaria, cures it, rebuilds, and builds up the system. A true tonic for adults and children. 50c

No Luck at All.

He was a Canadian and he wore a corporal's stripes, says the New York Evening News. There he sat snugly in a sheltered part of his trench in that little corner of Belgium and played poker with a quartet of his comrades. Luck was against him. He had lost about everything he had to lose when at the very height of the game—just after the dealer had done his best and worst—a shell came through the roof of the shelter, passing between the Canadian's long, lean legs (luckily without hitting him), and buried itself harmlessly in the soft earth. The others of the party leaped up in not inexcusable haste and fled from the place, but the Canadian did not move.

The disturbance brought the company commander on the run. "What's up?" says he. "Well, sir," says the Canadian, "that there shell drops in on us and when it don't explode at once I judge it is pretty safe not to go off at all. So I just set where I am. The cursed luck of it is that I ben playin' away here all mornin' drawin' rotten cards and losin' my shirt, and here just as I holds the first four of a kind that's gladdened my eyes since Hector was a pup—and kings at that, sir—at that identical moment there comes this piffin' German turnip and the other fellows beats it."

He that voluntarily continues in ignorance, is guilty of all the crimes which ignorance produces.—Johnson.

The fool hen cackles joyously over the egg that may be destined to furnish some man with an omelet.

A Chinese philosopher says there is an ounce of wisdom at the root of every gray hair.

Deliberate long before doing what it's impossible to undo.